

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-25 and 27-40 are presently pending in the application. Of these, claims 1, 22, 23 and 30 are independent. Claim 26 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, and claims 23 and 27 are amended. Reconsideration of presently pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 36 and New Claim 40

The claim listing included two claims numbered "Claim 36". In this amendment, the *second* "Claim 36" has been cancelled, and its subject matter is included as new "Claim 40".

Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-3, 5-22 and 30-39. Claims 26-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the limitations of claim 26 have been appended to independent claim 23, and claim 23 should now be in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by WO 03/039400 to Huppert, et al. However, claim 23 is amended to include the features of allowable dependent claim 26 to more particularly define the invention, and claim 26 is cancelled. Therefore, claim 23 now includes all the limitations of allowable claim 26 and likewise should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 23.

Dependent Claims

Claims 24-25 and 27-29 depend from independent claim 23 and also are believed to be distinct from the art of record, for example for the same reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 24-25 and the objection to claims 27-29 and allow the claims.

CONCLUSION

An early formal notice of allowance of claims 1-3, 5-25 and 27-40 is requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if further assistance is necessary. Deposit account number 08-1394 can be used for any over payments or under payments including extension of time fees.


Respectfully submitted,



Dustin T. Johnson
Registration No. 47,684

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HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75202 3789
Telephone: 972/739-6969
Facsimile: 214/200-0853
Client Matter No.: 31132.123

<p style="text-align: center;">Certificate of Service</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web on <u>June 4, 2007</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Diane Sutton</p>
